

Treasury Department,

Bureau of the Mint,

Washington, D. C. Feb. 4, 1899.

M. D. H. Mercer,

Chairman, Committee on Buildings & Grounds,

House of Representatives.

Yours of the 27th ultmo, addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury in relation to H. R. 11416, has been referred to this Bureau. Since the United States Assay Office was opened at Seattle on the 15th of last, about \$5,600,000 of gold has been deposited there. The office is now maintained in a rented building which is wholly inadequate to the requirements of the service. It is without vaults and we are obliged to rely almost wholly upon guards for the safekeeping of the Treasury.

The probability is that this office will receive from ten to fifteen million dollars worth of gold bullion during the present calendar year and that the receipts will not decline for many years to come. If the Institution is to be maintained at Seattle it is highly desirable that a safe and substantial building should be provided for its use. The Annual Report of the Secretary of the Treasury suggested an appropriation of \$50,000 for this purpose.

Very truly yours,

Geo E. Roberts

Director of the Mint.